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## **MADISON COUNTY'S NEW HOPE CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added New Hope Cemetery in New Hope to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

This is the seventh cemetery in Madison County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 313 cemeteries statewide.

The oldest marked grave is dated 1833 and is that of Minerva Kennebrugh, wife of John Kennebrugh, a local merchant. There are fourteen stacked stone burials and at least fifty unknown graves. Twenty-three Confederate veterans, twelve medical doctors, and six mayors are buried here. Two-term mayor Alvis Whited who was a representative in the state legislature in 1886-87 is also buried here.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*

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